

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) A side impact protective apparatus for a motor vehicle occupant which is incorporated into a side wall of a motor vehicle comprising:

a pressure gas source, ~~and~~

a covering including an upper edge side region, a lower edge side region, and a front face interconnecting the upper and lower edge side regions,

a gas bag having respective longitudinal ends which can be inflated by the pressure gas source, the gas bag being folded together and arranged in a resting position along ~~an~~ the upper edge side region of the side wall ~~behind an internal~~ covering and exiting upwardly upon unfolding in ~~the~~ a region of a ~~railing in the~~ side wall railing through a slot formed between the upper edge ~~of the covering~~ side region and the side wall, thereby ~~and~~ extending upward along an interior of a side window as impact protection for ~~the~~ a head region of the occupant, ~~of the~~ motor vehicle,

wherein the ~~covering~~ upper edge side region is fastened connected to ~~two~~ the lower edge side region along a connection line extending between spaced fastenings disposed at distances from said respective longitudinal ends of the gas bag.

~~approximately at the height of~~ wherein the connection line is disposed adjacent a lower gas bag edge,

~~region of the gas bag on the side wall, wherein, viewed from the side, an ideal~~ the connection line forms a ~~swiveling~~ pivot axis for a ~~pivotal~~ the upper edge

side region of the covering, and at the front side of the covering through two spaced fastenings, and

wherein said front face includes a defined weakening is provided defined therein adjacent the pivotal upper edge side region.

2. (Original) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the side wall is a motor vehicle door.

3. (Currently amended) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein one of the ~~two~~ spaced fastenings, viewed in the direction of travel, is a frontally positioned fastening of the covering which adjoins an internally positioned door opener of the motor vehicle door.

4. (Currently amended) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein one of the ~~two~~ spaced fastenings, viewed in the direction of travel, is a rear-positioned fastening of the covering which is arranged adjoining the defined weakening of defined in the covering front face.

5. (Currently amended) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the weakening is defined on the front side of the covering and runs at least segmentally parallel to the external contour of the covering turned toward the passenger space.

6. (Currently amended) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the weakening is arranged at a slight distance ~~to~~ from an arch-like external contour of the covering.

7. (Currently amended) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the weakening is formed by several bore holes, ~~arranged at a distance to one another~~, wherein centers of the bore holes lie on a common, arch-like formed central line, and wherein a connection bar is arranged between two adjoining bore holes.

8. (Previously presented) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the weakening is formed by openings.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the rear-positioned face fastening and the weakening ~~of the covering~~ are covered by a superimposed protective cap.

11. (Original) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein an embedded net-like fabric insert is provided inside a carrier element of the covering at least adjoining the side impact protective apparatus.

12. (Currently amended) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the weakening is formed by several bore holes, ~~arranged at a distance to one another~~, wherein centers of the bore holes lie on a common, arch-like formed central line, and wherein a connection bar is arranged between two adjoining bore holes.

13. (Previously presented) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the weakening is formed by openings.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein an embedded net-like fabric insert is provided inside a carrier element of the covering at least adjoining the side impact protective apparatus.

16. (Previously presented) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the covering is a one-piece covering.

17. (Currently amended) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~pivotal upper edge side~~ region pivots about the ~~swiveling~~ pivot axis during gas bag deployment.